

REMARKS

The Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 18, 2002. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-24 were pending in this Application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case. No amendments are presented in this response.

Claim Rejections

Applicants believe that the Office Action, Page 3, Section 3 incorrectly reads that Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Revashetti et al. (US 6,122,625), and that it was the Examiners intention to reject Claims 1-24 (as reflected on the Office Action Summary) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Revashetti et al. (US 6,230,199) (as cited on the Notice of References Cited Form PTO-892.) Therefore, Applicants assume Claims 1-24 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,230,199 issued to Siddaraya B. Revashetti et al. (hereafter “Revashetti et al.”). If this was not the Examiner’s intention, Applicants request that a non-final Office Action be issued clarifying the Examiner’s basis for rejection and the rejected claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-24 under §102(e) as anticipated by Revashetti et al. and submit evidence in the form of a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 showing a date of invention of September 24, 1999. This date is over a month prior to the October 29, 1999 filing date of Revashetti et al. Therefore, in light of the Declaration, the Revashetti et al. patent is no longer a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-24 based on this reference and allow the claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request that Claims 1-24 be allowed. Early and favorable acceptance of this application is respectfully requested.

A one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) is requested and the \$110 fee is enclosed.

A Revocation of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorneys for Non-Provisional Application, with Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) is also enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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